

HOUSE BILL 1497

By Johnson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,  
Chapter 4, relative to license plates recognizing  
certain military units.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

(a) Distinctive license plates are authorized for active, retired, and honorably  
discharged members of 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in good standing. The  
plates are approved for display on motor vehicles that are authorized by § 55-4-210(c)  
and that are owned and operated, or leased by, a member or a member's spouse or  
child.

(b) The license plates shall bear an emblem distinctive of 5th Special Forces  
Group (Airborne) and the legend "5th Special Forces Group (Airborne)". The plates  
shall be designed in consultation with an authorized representative of 5th Special Forces  
Group (Airborne).

(c) The license plate authorized pursuant to this section shall be issued upon:

- (1) Payment of the regular registration fee pursuant to this chapter;
- (2) Payment of the fee prescribed by § 55-4-203(c); and
- (3) Submission of documentation required by subsection (d) or (e).

(d)

- (1) All applications pursuant to this section must be accompanied by  
military orders or other official documentation detailing an assignment to 5th

Special Forces Group (Airborne) as proof of eligibility for issuance of a license plate pursuant to this section.

(2) In addition to providing the documentation required under subdivision (d)(1):

(A) An active duty member of 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) must present a valid military identification card or such other document as the commissioner designates as sufficient proof that the applicant is an active duty member of the military; or

(B) A retired or honorably discharged member of 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) must present:

(i) A certified copy of the member's certificate of release or discharge from active duty, department of defense form 214 (DD 214);

(ii) A valid DD form 2 (Retired) military identification card; or

(iii) A Tennessee driver license that indicates military service in accordance with § 55-50-354.

(3) An application pursuant to this section by a spouse or child of a member must be accompanied by documentation that:

(A) Is required from a member under subdivisions (d)(1) and (2); and

(B) Provides sufficient proof that the applicant is the spouse or child of a member, including:

(i) A valid DD form 1173 military dependent identification card;

(ii) A marriage certificate;

(iii) A birth certificate or certificate of adoption; or

(iv) Other documentation designated by the commissioner.

(e) A surviving spouse of a deceased retired or honorably discharged member or of a member who died while on active duty shall be issued a license plate pursuant to this section, until the surviving spouse remarries, upon:

(1) Complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles;

(2) Paying the regular registration fee pursuant to this chapter and the fee prescribed by § 55-4-203(c);

(3) Providing documentation required under subdivision (d)(3); and

(4) Providing a copy of the death certificate of the deceased.

(f) An applicant shall be required to submit the documentation required by subsection (d) or (e) only when initially applying for license plates under this section. Subsequent license plates under this section shall be issued to that person without the repeated presentation of documentation.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(5)(E), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

( ) 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne);

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-203(c)(1), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

( ) 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne);

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-320, is amended by adding a cross-reference to the section created by Section 1 immediately after the language "§ 55-4-244," wherever it appears.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.